suggested the appointment of a committee, composed of an official member from the Fisheries Department and two non-official members from the fishermen community, to find suitable markets for Travancore fish and to formulate a scheme for making fish trade more profitable.

The Member's next representation was that more help might be given to the Co-operative Societies belonging to fishermen to conduct fish trade on co-operative lines. He pointed out the need for rendering financial aid to fishermen by granting loans to them for purchasing nets and other fishing implements and suggested the desirability of providing funds under 'Fishery loans' in the annual budgets of the Fisheries Department for distribution to fishermen in the shape of loans through their Co-operative Societies.

The Member then spoke on the desirability of appointing a separate Co-operative Inspector to advise fishermen in managing and organising Co-operative Societies.

He next represented that, owing to the nature of their calling and their poverty, fishermen were kept aloof by the other communities, and that to safeguard their rights they might be allowed representation in the Village Panchayats when the Village Panchayat Bill became law.

Lastly, the Member referred to the need of opening more fish-curing yards. He pointed out that five out of the eight fish-curing yards in existence were located in places to the south of Trivandrum, while there were only three to the north of it. The Member therefore urged that more yards be opened to the north of Trivandrum, especially at Purakkad in the Ambalapuzha taluk. The Member said that it would greatly help the fishermen if arrangements could be made to issue salt to them for curing purposes through their Co-operative Societies.

President's reply.—With regard to the finding of markets for Travancore fish, I may tell the Member for his information that Burma, the Straits Settlements, Ceylon and the adjoining Tamil Districts in the Madras Presidency are the principal markets for the fish exported from this country. Your suggestion to find additional markets is noted.

Your request for the allotment of a special fund for the grant of loans to those engaged in the fish industry is noted.

I may state that there are now 17 Co-operative Societies for Arayans, 12 for Valans and 13 for Coast Christians. You say that a special Co-operative Inspector to advise fishermen may be appointed. The Chief Inspector of the Co-operative Department has been appointed by the Government for attending to the work of organizing new societies.

When the Village Panchayat Bill becomes Law, your request to nominate representatives of the member's community to local Village Panchayats will be considered.

As regards fish-curing yards, there are 8 of them now and Government are contemplating to open 2 more. The Director of Agriculture says that there are no records to show that there is any necessity to open a fish-curing yard at Purakkad. Now that the necessity has been brought to notice, the question of opening a yard at Purakkad will also be considered.

Your suggestions for affording further help to Arayans are noted.

49. Concessions to Co-operative Societies.

Mr. C. Krishnan Vaidyan (Member, Nominated) began by making certain general observations regarding the utility of the co-operative movement and the methods by which that movement might be developed. He suggested means for educating the public in the principles of co-operation, such as the inclusion of lessons in co-operation in text books, distribution of leaflets, delivery of public lectures, etc.

The Member next represented that the Mayyanad Co-operative Society, Ltd., No. 44, of which he was the Secretary, had applied for certain *puduval* lands in Pattanapuram taluk and requested that those lands might be registered in the name of that society.

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He then urged the need for a market at Mayyanad and requested the Government to open one near the Mayyanad Railway Station.

Lastly, the Member spoke on the desirability of connecting the Mayyanad Railway Station with the main central road by opening a branch road.

President's reply.—Your suggestion to include co-operation in the curricula of studies in schools is under the consideration of Government.

As regards the registry of lands in the Pattanapuram taluk, applied for by your society, it is found that these lands have not yet been disafforested. After these lands are disafforested, a notification will be issued and your application will be then considered.

As regards the opening of a market at Mayyanad, the Co-operative Registrar says that he has addressed the Peishkar on the matter.

As regards the road from the Mayyanad Station mentioned by you, the Chief Engineer will be addressed.

50. Certain disabilities of merchants and suggestions for helping them.

Mr. K. C. Eapen B. A. (Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum) represented the disabilities of the trading classes in Travancore. He said that they expected to find in the opening Address of the Dewan some announcement which might afford relief to them and remove some at least of their grievances, but they were disappointed. In every country a special place was being given to commerce and every endeavour was being made to encourage it by the formation of a separate department for the purpose. They had a Director of Agriculture and a Director of Industries. There should be a State Department for the promotion of trade and commerce. There was at present no responsible official in the State service who might be consulted in mercantile matters. Such an officer was highly necessary in the paramount interest of the traders themselves. Perhaps, when Mr. A. Gopala Menon, who was undergoing training in England in mercantile matters, returned, he would, it was presumed, be of use to the State and the further development of trade and commerce would receive more stimulus. But there was also a fear in the mind of some people that he might be given a promotion elsewhere. Incidentally, the Member referred to the case of a merchant at Chalai, Trivandrum, whose liabilities were Rs. 50,000 and assets Rs. 35,000, on whom a notice had been served for an income-tax of Rs. 1,000. The Member regretted that there was no union among merchants and that they did not understand their importance in the economy of the State. The need for a Department of Trade and Commerce was great, for the merchants were suffering great loss when they had to export their goods. As such export had to be done through European agency, that agency had to be given some commission. The ship-building industry was another line in which a Commercial Department of the Government could do a great deal. For failure of Government aid, that industry had declined. As an instance of the need for an official organisation, the Member mentioned that, in connection with a contract entered into by Government for the supply of corrugated iron sheets for the Devaswom Department, a loss of Rs. 75,000 was incurred. That was his information which might or might not be accurate. The Government were giving loans for agricultural and industrial enterprises. The same should be done in regard to trade and commerce also. Though the participation of the State in the Cochin Harbour Scheme had discouraged Travancore merchants, it was highly gratifying to know that our Government would secure equal shares with those of Cochin and British India.

The Member next stated that, though the extension of the railway from Nagercoil to Trivandrum was, no doubt, beneficial, the Kottarakara–Alwaye line was more useful and urgent. He also emphasised the need for the extension of railway to the heart of the town of Trivandrum. He suggested that the Commercial School at Alleppey which, according to Government, was waning should be removed to Trivandrum, as, in that case, its strength would increase. When the Government were convinced of the success, on a commercial scale, of any particular industry like pottery, a factory should be opened for the promotion of that industry. That was not being done now. Another matter about which the Member spoke was that some of the contractors of the Public Works Department in Trivandrum for 1097 had not

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